

WE CLAIM:

1. A dental implant comprising a body portion and a head portion, said body portion comprising a tip portion remote from said head portion, a lead thread portion adjacent said tip portion, an intermediate thread portion adjacent said lead thread portion and a distal thread portion, adjacent said head portion, said dental implant further comprising a central bore within said head portion and a thread within said bore for receiving a dental prosthesis, and wherein said tip portion comprises at least one cutting edge for cutting bone as said implant is rotated, said body portion comprising at least one flute, said flute having a first end adjacent said at least one cutting edge for assisting removal of bone cuttings from said cutting edge.

2. The dental implant of claim 1 wherein said body portion has a general longitudinal axis and said body portion comprises an outer surface and said at least one flute extends along said outer surface of said body portion in a direction substantially parallel to said axis.

3. The dental implant of claim 1 wherein said implant comprises at least two said cutting edges and at least two said flutes.

4. The dental implant of claim 2 wherein said implant comprises two said cutting edges and two said flutes.

5. The dental implant of claim 2 wherein said flute extends from said tip portion along said lead thread portion and said intermediate thread portion of said body portion.

6. The dental implant of claim 5 wherein said flute has a distal end and said distal end is adjacent a proximal end of said distal threaded portion.

7. The dental implant of claim 5 wherein said flute has a flute surface and said surface of said flute is roughened to assist in osseointegration.

8. The dental implant of claim 7 wherein the surface of said lead thread portion and the surface of said intermediate thread portion of said body portion are smooth.

9. The dental implant of claim 5 wherein said lead thread portion comprises a thread having at least three revolutions.

10. The dental implant of claim 9 wherein said thread has a crest and a crest line joining the crests of said three revolutions of said lead thread portion extends radially outwardly, distally, relative to said general longitudinal axis.

11. The dental implant of claim 10 wherein a line joining the crests of the thread of said intermediate thread portion and said distal thread portion is substantially parallel to said axis.

12. The dental implant of claim 11 wherein a root line extending through the roots of the thread of said intermediate portion and said distal portion is parallel to said axis and is displaced from said axis a root distance and wherein said cutting edges extend from said axis radially outwardly to respective cutting edge ends and said cutting edge ends are displaced from said axis a cutting edge distance and wherein said root distance is greater than said cutting edge distance.

13. The dental implant of claim 12 wherein the difference between said root distance and said cutting distance is not greater than one

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third of said root distance.

14. The dental implant of claim 13 wherein said difference is not greater than five percent (5%) of said root distance.

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